

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 NEA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 COME-00 OMB-01

TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01

SAB-01 DOTE-00 EUR-12 /092 W

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R 141116Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

TO AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4306

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

C O N F I D E N T I A L NIAMEY 3224

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, SA, UV, NG

SUBJECT: SAUDI ARABIAN AID TO UPPER VOLTA

REF: OUAGADOUGOU 2088

1. DURING MEETING WITH SAUDI REP AL-RACHACH JULY 13, WE REVIEWED PRESENT STATUS OF TWO PROJECTS MENTIONED IN REFTEL, OUAGA-TAMBAO RAILROAD AND FADA-NIAMEY ROAD. IT APPARENT THAT GOUV AND AL-RACHACH ARE AT TIMES WORKING AT CROSS PURPOSES PARTLY BECAUSE AL-RACHACH IS NOT EXACTLY ARTICULATE NOR EXPERIENCED IN NEGOTIATING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AGREEMENTS. HOWEVER, IN INTEREST OF INVOLVING SAUDIS IN INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT EFFORT IN SAHEL, BELIEVE WE SHOULD KEEP PLUGGING AWAY IN OUR BROKER ROLE.

2. AL-RACHACH ACKNOWLEDGES HE RECEIVED SUMMARY IN ENGLISH OF PROJECT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF OUAGA-TAMBAO RAILROAD AND HE ALSO SAYS HE WAS AWARE OF MAY 1976 MEETING OF FOREIGN DONORS. HOWEVER, HE DID NOT ATTEND BECAUSE HE FEELS HIS PRESENCE AT SUCH A MEETING WOULD IDENTIFY SAG AS ONE OF
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DONORS PARTICIPATING IN PROJECT. ACCORDING TO AL-RACHACH,

THIS IS NOT WHAT SAG HAD IN MIND. SAG PROPOSES TO CONTRIBUTE TO PROJECT BY HELPING GOUV FINANCE ITS SHARE OF PROJECT AND DOES NOT WANT MAKE FUNDS AVAILABLE DIRECTLY TO CONSORTIUM OF DONORS. HENCE HIS NON-ATTENDANCE AT MAY MEETING.

3. AS NEXT STEP, AL-RACHACH SAYS WHAT HE WOULD LIKE IS LETTER FROM APPROPRIATE ELEMENT OF GOUV DESCRIBING PROJECT BRIEFLY AND OFFICIALLY REQUESTING SAG CONTRIBUTION. ANY SUPPORTING DATA REGARDING PROJECT IN EITHER ENGLISH OR FRENCH COULD BE ATTACHED TO REQUEST AND WOULD ALSO BE USEFUL.

4. AL-RACHACH SAYS HE PREPARED COME TO OUAGA IF GOUV BELIEVES IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO REVIEW DRAFT OF SUCH REQUEST TO INSURE IT IS WHAT SAG REQUIRES. ONCE THIS PROCESS IS COMPLETED AND OFFICIAL REQUEST IS FORWARDED TO SAG BY AL-RACHACH, NEXT STEP WILL PROBABLY BE TO ASK GOUV TECHNICAL TEAM TO GO TO JIDDA TO REVIEW AND SIGN AGREEMENT TRANSFERRING FUNDS TO GOUV.

5. AS FOR FADA-NIAMEY ROAD, AL-RACHACH EXPLAINED HE NEEDS SOME TYPE OF OFFICIAL REQUEST WHICH WOULD INCLUDE BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT AND AGAIN ANY SUPPORTING DATA AVAILABLE. USAID-FINANCED FEASIBILITY STUDY WOULD BE VERY USEFUL AS AN ATTACHMENT AND WE CAN PROVIDE HIM ONE FROM HERE. AL-RACHACH AWARE GOUV HAS NOT IDENTIFIED OTHER DONORS TO MATCH SAG 50 PERCENT PLEDGE. HE POINTS OUT THAT 50 PERCENT IS MORE THAN TOKEN AMOUNT AND REPRESENTS A SUBSTANTIAL FUND SUFFICIENT TO START PRELIMINARY WORK. IF GOUV IS AGREEABLE, ABOVE TECHNICAL MISSION GOING TO JIDDA COULD ALSO SIGN AGREEMENT FOR THIS PROJECT. THIS MIGHT ALSO HAVE BENEFICIAL EFFECT OF HELPING GOUV ATTRACT OTHER DONORS.

6. NEXT STEP IS PRESUMABLY FOR AL-RACHACH TO VISIT OUAGA, ASSUMING GOUV CAN GET CRANKED UP TO PRODUCE AT LEAST DRAFT OF WHAT AL-RACHACH PROPOSES. PLEASE ADVISE. HECK

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